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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

During the informal consultations held on 3 November 1997, I told the members of the Security Council that it was my intention that the inspection activities of the Special Commission should go forth despite Iraq's decisions conveyed to you in the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq of 29 October 1997 (S/1997/829). In the light of my statement, I believe I should inform you, and through you the members of the Council, that on 4 November, on my instructions as Executive Chairman, teams of the Special Commission attempted to conduct their inspection work in Iraq and were again blocked.

The details of the incidents are as follows. Three inspection teams (missile, chemical and biological) departed the Special Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC) at 0830 hours (local Baghdad time) for their inspection sites. On arrival at the sites for inspection at approximately 0900 hours, the Iraqi officials present stated to the respective Chief Inspectors that they could continue their inspections, but not with personnel of United States nationality. In accordance with my instructions, the Chief Inspectors told their Iraqi counterparts that their inspections could not proceed on such a basis. The teams returned to the BMVC at 0930 hours without further incident.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

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